

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 01595 191413Z

51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 H-03 NSC-07 OMB-01 AID-20

PC-10 SCCT-02 SY-04 OPR-02 IO-14 PM-07 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 119500

R 191201Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0297

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE DOMINICAN ELECTIONS

REF : SD-1094, SD-1087, SD-0869 AND SD-1338

1. AS DOMINICAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN ENTERS FINAL FOUR WEEKS, POLITICAL ACTIVITY HERE IS PERCEPTIBLY INCREASING, BRINGING WITH IT CONCOMITANT RISE IN PUBLIC INTEREST. REPORTS OF CLASHES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS ARE MORE FREQUENT, ALTHOUGH VIOLENT DEATHS HAVE BEEN FEW THUS FAR. DESPITE FREQUENT OPPOSITION ALLEGATIONS OF HARASSMENT BY SECURITY FORCES, THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD REVEALED APRIL 17 THAT IT HAD RECEIVED NO FORMAL COMPALINTS OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE ELECTORAL LAW.

2. THE FOUR-PARTY SANTIAGO ACCORD CONTINUES TO STAGE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS BOTH IN THE CAPITAL AND THE INTERIOR AND, BY MANY ACCOUNTS, IS ATTRACTING RELATIVELY LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS. THIS APPARENT MOUNTING SUPPORT FOR THE ACCORD'S CANDIDATES IS REPORTEDLY CAUSING THE GOVERNMENT SOME CONCERN AND HAS GIVEN RISE TO PREDICTIONS THAT BALAGUER'S MARGIN OF VICTORY ON MAY 16 WILL NOT BE AS GREAT AS THAT PERCEIVED JUST TWO WEEKS AGO. NONETHELESS, DESPITE INCREASING OPITMISM IN OPPOSITION CIRCLES, MOST OBSERVERS REMAIN CONVINCED THAT BALAGUER WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS AT THE POLLS, AND ALL THE MORE SO BECAUSE PERSONAL RIVALRIES AND CONFLICTING AMBITIONS KEEP THE OPPOSITION FROM

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 01595 191413Z

UNITING BEHIND A SINGLE CANDIDATE. MEANWHILE, THE OPPOSITION

CONTINUES ITS THREATS TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT MEETS ITS DEMANDS FOR THE RELEASE OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS," THE RETURN OF POLITICAL EXILES, THE CESSATION OF MILITARY AND POLICE HARASSMENT, ETC. SUCH THREATS SEEM TO BE LARGELY POLITICAL POSTURING, HOWEVER, IN AN ATTEMPT TO WRING CONCESSIONS FROM THE GODR. THE LIKELIHOOD OF WINNING MAYORSHIPS IN SEVERAL LARGE INTERIOR CITIES AS WELL AS UP TO PERHAPS 40 PERCENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SEATS PROVIDES A STRONG STIMULUS TO OPPOSITION LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH PARTISAN ACTIVITY TO PROMOTE SPECIFIC REFORMIST CANDIDATES CONTINUES AT A SURPRISINGLY LOW LEVEL, PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS MARKEDLY INTENSIFIED HIS OWN PERSONAL CAMPAIGN, GIVING THREE NATION-WIDE RADIO AND TELEVISION SPEECHES AND MAKING THREE POLITICAL TRIPS INTO THE INTERIOR THIS WEEK. BALAGUER'S CURRENT THRUST HAS BEEN AIMED AT STRENGTHENING HIS POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE IMPORTANT CAMPESINO CLASS, EVEN AT THE RISK OF FURTHER ALIENATION OF THE POWERFUL LAND-OWNING (TERRATENIENTE) CLASS.

4. ALTHOUGH THE OPPOSITION ACTS INCREASINGLY BUOYANT OVER ITS PROSPECTS AT THE POLLS, SUCH OPTIMISM SEEMS LARGELY UNWARRANTED. NONETHELESS, THE INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY THE GOVERNMENT AND BALAGUER INDICATE THAT THE GODR IS IN FACT CONCERNED AND IS BEING SHAKEN FROM ITS FORMER COMPALCENCY ABOUT ITS CHANCES OF WINNING ITS EXPECTED VICTORY ON MAY 16. IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE VIABLE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS ARE SORELY LACKING AND CIVIC EXPERIENCE AND MATURITY ARE IN ESPECIALLY SHORT SUPPLY, ATTEMPTS AT POLITICAL PREDICTION ARE GENERALLY UNREWARDING. NEVERTHELESS, MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT BALAGUER, WITH ALL OF THE RESOURCES OF THE GOVERNMENT AT HIS DISPOSAL, STILL REMAINS UNBEATABLE AT THE POLLS, EVEN THOUGH THE OPPOSITION MAY WIN A LARGER NUMBER OF OTHER ELECTIVE OFFICES THAN WAS ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED.

HURWITCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ELECTION LAW, HARASSMENT, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, CIVIL DISORDERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, BOYCOTTS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO01595
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740091-1028
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740429/aaaaazic.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SD-1094, SD-1087, SD-0869 AND SD-133, 8
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE DOMINICAN ELECTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005